decision of Government on TRAI's recommendations in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Rules regarding Electromagnetic Radiation

†434. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) always continue from mobile phone towers;

(b) if so, the effects of EMR on human body;

(c) the rules regarding setting up of mobile phone towers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by when rules will be framed in this direction; and

(f) whether Government will arrange for strict monitoring till the rules are framed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The electromagnetic radiations are always present from any antenna emitting radio signals, whether it is a mobile phone tower or a broadcast tower etc. The level of electromagnetic radiations within safety limits is harmless.The latest Fact Sheet of World Health Organisation (WHO) (No. 304 of May, 2006) states that from all evidence accumulation so far, no adverse short or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base station. Since wireless networks produce generally lower RF signals than base stations, no adverse health effects are expected exposure to them. Further , a Committee was setup under the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects. The Committee had studied the effects and concluded that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from mobile base stations.

Rural mobile telecom subscribers

435. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECNNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set a traget to achieve 150 million rural subscribers by 2010 from the current level of 30 million mobile telecom connectivity in rural India and to provide by December, 2007 educational institutes, police stations, and public health centres in 1000,000 out of 600,000 villages broad band interent services;

(b) whether Government are also focusing on the requirement of North-Eastern States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.